Hon. T. A. Crerar,
United Grain Growers,
Winnipeg, Man.

THE

U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA :: THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VIII. CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 22nd, 1920 No. 10.

Old Age Pensions Legislation Debated in Assembly

Staff Correspondence

News From the Head Office of the Alberta Wheat Pool

Who Distributed Anti-Pool Speech?

Proposal to Make Compulsory Clause of Debt Adjustment Act General Rejected by Convention

Matter Discussed at Length by U.F.A. Annual Convention—Brownlee States Government's Reasons—Regrets That Voluntary Clauses Which Apply Throughout Province Are not Sufficiently Well Known

By an almost unanimous vote, after an explanation by Premier Brownlee as to the reasons why the Government had thought it unwise to apply to the Province as a whole the one provision of the Debt Adjustment Act which is not at present of general application, the U.F.A. Annual Convention rejected in January a resolution from the Stettler Provincial Constituency Association protesting against the failure to carry into effect the resolution of last year and asking that such extension be made.

Prior to consideration of this resolution, the Convention had rejected a resolution of censure on the Government, submitted by the Stettler C. A. The mover of the vote of censure, M. R. Holder, had explained that this resolution "was unfortunately worded," as it was "not the intention to censure the Government, but rather to ask for an explanation." This was his sole reason for raising the matter, he stated, and he made it clear that if the resolution which asked enactment of the legislation had first come before the Annual Convention, or if he were sure that consideration of the vote of censure would not preclude discussion of the other, he would ask that it be withdrawn. For the vote of censure there were five supporters.

Premier Outlines History of Legislation

In rising to speak on the resolution, Premier Brownlee said that he had learned that the intention of the resolution was simply to bring the matter of the Debt Adjustment Act forward, in order that the reasons why its extension was desired might be given, and also the reasons actuating the Government in not proceeding with it. He proceeded to review the history of legislation of this character in Alberta. In 1921 a very serious situation existed in part of the Province, engaging the attention of the Government almost to the exclusion of everything else. The Drought Area Relief Act was then introduced, to enable settlers to remain on the land, and to stay the hands of a few creditors. Credit in the area affected was almost completely destroyed, owing to climatic conditions. The act had the appearance of a semi-moratorium. It was not necessary, however, to give the same concern to this aspect of the matter, from the standpoint of the effect on credit conditions in general, as if the act had applied to the whole Province. In one or two years conditions were modified, and the modified legislation of the Debt Adjustment Act was passed, the old act being repealed. The intention had been to go on modifying the legislation from year to year.

The One Compulsory Clause

It was felt, however, that certain beneficial features of the legislation could be of benefit throughout the whole Province, and the Premier pointed out that the Debt Adjustment Act does apply throughout the Province in respect to all features but one. This was the semi-moratorium feature, providing that in cases of particular hardship the director of the Debt Adjustment Bureau could file a certificate in court, which was good while the crop of any particular year was being harvested, and no longer, staying action on the part of creditors until the certificate was set aside by a judge.

Mr. Brownlee thought the farmers in the locality from which the resolution had emanated had probably been influenced by a particular case which he had in mind. In that case as much or more relief had been given than could have been given in the south east where the exceptional clause was still in force.

The legislation which was passed for the southeast, said the Premier, had undoubtedly saved many men, and in consequence business people in that area had favored it as a means of re-establishing confidence.

The Government's Motive

In not extending the one clause referred to, to the north, the Government had not been influenced simply by the big interests. "We have had to face the financial interests before and are ready to do so again," declared Mr. Brownlee. The Government had to ask itself the question (and this was its one concern), "Would enough good be done to a sufficient number of people to offset the harm that might be done to many more?" Information received from many districts as to the injury which might result to many farmers was the one cause that influenced the Government in dropping the idea. If legislation which might help one man, hurt a hundred others, then it was bad legislation.

Mr. Brownlee said that there were from 50 to 100 cases in the southeast area in which the certificate had been invoked last year, and there might be fewer this; even if the whole Province were subject to this provision of the act. It seemed that from 50 to 75 per cent of any cases that might arise could be dealt with under the voluntary clauses, and the risk of impairing the credit of farmers not needing the assistance given under these clauses might be avoided. The Government's reason for acting as they did in not extending the act was "a very earnest regard for the welfare of the farmers of the Northern part of the Province."

Answering Col. Robinson, the Premier said that the number of adjustments made under the voluntary clauses of the act in the north compared favorably with the adjustments in the southeast. It must be remembered that even the filing of a certificate did not completely protect a debtor.

Creditors' Fears

Mr. Holder asked how provision for the filing of the certificate would prejudice the case of a farmer in the north. This feature of the act, Mr. Brownlee replied, was "regarded by creditors generally as a sort of moratorium." Fear was consequently expressed all over Canada, and the question asked, "Why was it necessary?" Creditors accordingly thought they must safeguard themselves against the danger of possible loss.

"Ninety per cent of the work of the Debt Adjustment Bureau is always voluntary, even in the south," said the Premier.

Col. Robinson said the idea had been entertained that the Government was controlled by an unseen government. Mr. Brownlee had said on his word of honor that the Government had not acted as they did out of fear from such a source, but that they had done so for what they believed to be a valid reason from the standpoint of the farmers. He expressed opposition to the proposal to censure the Government.

Mr. Holder wished to withdraw the resolution of censure, if he could be sure that the other resolution from Stettler Provincial C.A. would be discussed before adjournment. This resolution, as stated, protested against the withdrawal last year of the bill which would have made the Debt Adjustment Act of full force in all its clauses throughout the Province, and requested that this measure be passed at the session of 1929. Mr. Aitken, chairman of the order of business committee, explained that the matter could be brought before the committee, but said he could of course not say in advance what action the committee would take.

Mr. Wiley moved in amendment that "the present Government, the secret Government, and the secret societies get a vote of censure," but there was no seconder.

A delegate from the area in which the Debt Adjustment Act is in full force declared that by the special legislation which had been passed, "what little credit we had was taken away." He complimented the Government on what he considered their good judgment in not making its provisions general throughout the Province.

The vote was then taken, with the result as stated.

The Second Resolution

The resolution asking that the act be applied in all its clauses to the whole Province was then moved by Mr. Holder and seconded. Mr. Wiley moved that a clause in the resolution declaring that the influence of the "financial and perhaps legal interests" had been the influences leading to the withdrawal of the bill last year, be amended by substituting the words "Law Society" for "perhaps legal." This was seconded.

Reasons for Resolution

Mr. Holder said that the resolution was not occasioned by any particular case, as Mr. Brownlee thought. It was desired, however, to "cut out this useless and expensive business of seizure and legal proceedings." Farmers wanted to use in the liquidation of their debts money which now was eaten up in legal charges. If the certificate clauses had been in effect all over the Province, many farmers who had been lost to the country would have remained on the land. The Debt Adjustment Act, as it now was in the North, did not protect against waste of money on legal proceedings.

Alluding to the amendment, Mr. Brownlee said he did not think a single representation had been made by the Law Society in reference to the proposal to extend the provisions of the Debt Adjustment Act. He explained that the Government last year withdrew their bill pending a conference. A conference, he said, had been arranged, and would be held very shortly between debtor and creditor interests, and the farmers' organization would be represented.

Should Act Early

The Premier again emphasized the fact that the voluntary clauses of the act are

(Continued on page 6)

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EDITORIAL

SUBSCRIBE FOR HANSARD

Writing in our last issue, D. M. Kennedy, M.P., pointed out that the only satisfactory way to follow proceedings in Parliament is to read the reports of the debates published in "Hansard", the official verbatim record. We would urge all our readers who can do so to follow Mr. Kennedy's advice. National issues of concern to every citizen of Canada are determined by the House, and Western Canadian problems, especially the problems of the prairie farmer, command increasing attention. Orders for Hansard should be sent to the Editor of Debates, House of Commons, Ottawa, accompanied by the subscription price of $3 for the complete reports of the session. The reports are printed daily.

* * *

TO SAFEGUARD ALBERTA'S FUTURE

One of the chief reasons why Alberta should enter into complete control of the development and distribution of electrical energy with the least possible delay, is that the public ownership interests lack funds, that the cause of public ownership must be fought mainly by those who are devoted to a principle and willing to give their services, while the power interests can afford to spend lavishly in the attempt to capture the power field. Millions are spent on anti-public ownership propaganda on this continent today. The only way in which Alberta's interests can be certainly safeguarded is by entrance into the power field at an early date. Those who suggest that the farmers are concerned in this matter solely from the standpoint of immediate gains to themselves are totally mistaken. The farmers know that in the long run, though perhaps not for some years to come, power for the farms will be obtained more advantageously under public than under private ownership. But they do not expect miracles. They do recognize the grave danger to public life which has arisen in every community in which private power interests have been allowed to gain a foothold. Their devotion to public ownership is a matter of principle.

* * *

A PATRIOTIC AMERICAN ON THE POWER TRUST

In "The Power Monopoly, Its Make-up and Its Menace," ex-Governor Gifford Pinchot has published a very thorough, carefully and conscientiously documented study of the 4,363 corporations owned or controlled by the electrical power industry of the United States, not including 31 investment companies allied with the power interests. One of the companies mentioned is today operating in Alberta.

Mr. Pinchot points out that once the trust has established itself in any state, it is exceedingly difficult to dislodge, because it has the backing of financial interests with which state governments must deal. He declares:

"We have indisputable proof that the power banks, the power politicians, and the power monopolists are striving for nothing less than a power dictatorship over the nation in all its parts. A private state within the state is bad enough. But a private super-state, overawing and dominating the state, is intolerable. Do we care enough about the future of America to save it from such a private super-state of electric power giants?"

* * *

MISLEADING COMPARISONS

In the debate on redistribution which took place recently in the Alberta Legislature, Liberal and Conservative speakers drew a number of entirely erroneous deductions from an analysis of the vote recorded for the various groups in the last Provincial election. The aggregate Liberal vote, the aggregate Conservative vote, the aggregate Labor vote and the aggregate U.F.A. vote were made the basis of comparisons of the relative support which these groups could command from the total electorate.

If the U.F.A. and Labor had placed candidates in practically every constituency, as the Liberals and Conservatives did, the aggregate figures would provide an adequate basis for comparison. In the ten city seats the U.F.A. would undoubtedly have received substantial additions to their total; and the Labor groups, if they had contested rural constituencies, could have picked up a large minority labor vote, while not winning, perhaps, a single seat. But neither the U.F.A. nor Labor chose to follow such a policy. The comparisons, therefore, are of very little value, and cannot fairly be used at all unless attention be called to the significance of these differences.

* * *

Mr. Shaw's expressions of alarm about the deal made by the Government in the purchase of the C.J.R. Lodge in Edmonton seemed to observers like an attempt to whip up a storm in a teacup. But it is impossible to whip up even a miniature storm in a totally empty teacup, such as the inquiry in the Public Accounts Committee revealed. In other words, there was no evidence to warrant Mr. Shaw's complaint.

* * *

OLD AGE PENSIONS

It would be undesirable to introduce anything which might be suggestive of charity into the operation of the old age pensions scheme, such as some critics of the bill in the Legislature fear. Precautions against dishonesty are, of course, necessary in the administration of any such undertaking, but one of the advantages of the British system, universally recognized, is that it does relieve the old people of the bitterness which comes from dependence upon relatives who themselves may be in hard circumstances. The British method of financing, adopted when the Old Age Pensions scheme was introduced, was to tax super-wealth. That was and is sound in principle. There is a widening gulf in Canada, as in the United States, between the few who are chiefly in possession (13 per cent of the people of the United States, to quote James J. Davis, own 60 per cent of the country's wealth), and the people of average condition. It is upon the Canadian equivalent of the United States 13 per cent that the main burden should fall. The taxation of super-wealth can more readily be effected through Dominion than through Provincial budgets, though succession duties, which are levied Provincially, do provide one means by which the Provincial treasury may perhaps further increase its revenues as circumstances warrant.

News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Locals Issued by the Publicity Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Who Distributed Anti-Pool Speech?

Thousands of Copies of A. A. McGillivray Address Distributed Over Alberta

Thousands upon thousands of copies of the speech against the Wheat Pool Bill made in the Alberta Legislature by A. A. McGillivray have been circulated all over Alberta. The speech is printed on plain newsprint and headed by an extract from a report of the *Calgary Herald* on the McGillivray speech. The matter is arranged so that the reader might come to the conclusion that the *Calgary Herald* was responsible for the entire material, while the great bulk is actually from the *Calgary Albertan* and *Edmonton Bulletin*, two newspapers which were apparently furnished with advance copies of the McGillivray speech.

There are no marks of any kind on the sheet or envelope to indicate who had this sheet printed and posted. The very fact that identification marks are omitted leads to the conclusion that the Grain Trade is responsible. It is characteristic of their methods. The subtlety of the sheet is that it lays the onus on the *Calgary Herald*, which has been consistently friendly to the Wheat Pool, while as a matter of fact the bulk of the reprint is from the *Edmonton Bulletin* and the *Calgary Albertan*. The situation is being explained in order that Pool members may have a complete understanding of how this stunt was engineered.

Herald's Repudiation

In reference to this the *Calgary Herald* of March 13th has this to say:

"The attention of the *Herald* was drawn today to a copy of an eighteen-column circular or broadside reporting the attack made by A. A. McGillivray, K.C., on the Wheat Pool and the Wheat Pool Bill when the latter measure was being discussed by the Alberta Legislature on February 25th last.

"The make-up of this broadside makes it appear that it was prepared by the *Herald*. The broadcast was distributed to thousands of Alberta farmers, it is stated, and the impression is conveyed that the *Herald* was responsible for such distribution.

"The *Herald* wishes to inform its readers that it had no knowledge that such broadside was being prepared and that the use of the *Herald's* name was not authorized; furthermore, that the distribution was made without the authority or knowledge of this paper. The *Herald* presented to its readers a news report of the Pool Bill debate, but this was not a verbatim report. The verbatim report of Mr. McGillivray's speech was published in two other papers and it is the reproduction of this verbatim report which occupies seven-eights of the broadside's space.

"The broadside is damaging to the *Herald* in that it gives the impression that the *Herald* is opposed to the Wheat Pool and that it is taking action designed to injure the Wheat Pool.

"The *Herald* had the honor of being associated with the organization of the Wheat Pool and it has given its consistent support to the principles of co-operative marketing.

"The *Herald* repudiates any responsibility for this broadside."

As far as the speech is concerned, the Pool has no objection to its being read by all of the membership. It would suggest, however, that some of the remarks and conclusions be taken with "a grain of salt." His close connection with the Grain Trade does not qualify the gentleman to pose as a fair and unbiassed commentator on Wheat Pool matters. He characterizes the Wheat Pool Bill as "vile and dishonest."

A careful and honest perusal of the bill fails to show any "vileness and dishonesty" so far as its membership is concerned.

The true purpose of the Wheat Pool Act is to fully protect the Wheat Pool. Our members must realize that with each passing year the attacks against the Pool have been increasingly active. The entire Pool structure has been gone over with the greatest care to find any possible weak points upon which to launch an attack. When the Pool seeks to tighten up its legal armor it is met with slurs of "vileness and dishonesty."

This Wheat Pool Act has been discussed over the radio several times and the Pool believes its purpose is well understood by the majority of Pool members. The Pool cannot conceive that many members are imbued with the idea that the directors and delegates are engaged in a deep conspiracy to injure any member in any way.

INFORMATION ON BARLEY

Farmers who are desirous of sowing barley this year can obtain good seed from the Canada Malting Co. at Calgary, the price being $1.10 bushel, sacked f.o.b. Calgary.

This information is given because there are many farmers who have expressed a desire to grow barley this year. The Malting Company is handling the seed at virtually cost in order to increase the supply of malting barley. The kind is O.A.C. 21.

The Alberta Wheat Pool is operating a Coarse Grains Pool this year and is naturally interested in the various coarse grains. Barley appears to be one of the most promising of these grains and the Pool Central Selling Agency is concentrating on the opening of foreign markets, the establishing of a better system of grading barley, and the production of better barley in Canada.

If a grower goes in for barley he should take time to acquaint himself with the best methods of production and handling. Those who desire this information should apply to the Publicity Department of the Wheat Pool for a booklet covering every phase of the production of barley for malting purposes. The following summarizes the principal features of this booklet, which is free on request:

1. The malting process consists of cleaning, grading, steeping, germinating and drying the sprouted barley in kilns.

2. The main object of malting is to release the starch content of the barley kernels.

3. Only ripe barley will make good malt; unripe barley is seriously objectionable. Satisfactory ripening depends considerably on early seeding.

4. A mixture of other grains in malting barley can and should be avoided by the use of pure seed on clean land.

5. O.A.C. 21 is the standard malting variety.

6. High and uniform germinating power is vital necessity in malting barley.

7. To germinate and grow satisfactorily, barley must be:
   (a) Sound and bright;
   (b) Free from damaged kernels;
   (c) Plump and uniform.

8. Careful harvesting will help ensure soundness and brightness.

9. Careful threshing will avoid damaged kernels.

10. Plumpness and uniformity can be attained by the use of good seed, coupled with sound cultural practices.

MEETING AT DALEMEAD

A Wheat Pool meeting was held in Dalemead on Saturday, March 9th. Ben. S. Plumer, the Director for South Calgary, being unable to attend, R. A. MacPherson, Director for North Calgary, was the principal speaker. Mr. MacPherson dealt with farm storage and other major Pool problems. O. Z. Buchanan, western sales manager, spoke on the subject of selling problems. Questioned as to whether the sales department could turn off a large volume of Garnet wheat to advantage, Mr. Buchanan stated that up to the present time Garnet has been sold as Marquis, due to the fact that it has not been coming in in large quantities. He thought that when Garnet is grown extensively so that it will become recognized as a distinct variety, a market could probably be found for it. The impression was left with the meeting that the graders are prejudiced against this wheat rather than the export buyer.

The chairman of the meeting, M. Phillips, called on the local Pool elevator operator, J. H. Dixon, to report on the progress of Pool activities in the district. Mr. Dixon said that there was only one resident farmer in the district who was not a Pool member. The grain handlings for this year amount to 240,000 bushels, including 25,000 bushels of coarse grains.

R. C. Armstrong, travelling superintendent for Pool Elevators, was also at the meeting and stated that he had not a better managed nor more loyally supported elevator than the one at Dalemead.

C. Cowell stressed the need of a Pool elevator at Indus to take care of the Pool crop there as well as relieve Dalemead which cannot well handle the crop at Dalemead and the Pool crop at Indus as well.

C. Craig of Langdon, delegate for this district, gave a report of the annual meeting and the special meeting of the delegates held early this year. At the close of the meeting Mr. MacPherson expressed himself as being well pleased

with his reception at Dalemead and the very favorable report of Pool activities in the district.

News & Views

Julius Esping of Schuler, writes: "I am 100 per cent for the Pool. I am very proud of our Pool elevator at Schuler and Mr. Ziegler is giving excellent service."

James D. Fraser, chief government grain inspector, stated that mixing of Western Canada hard wheat with low grade United States wheat is a common practice in transfer houses in Montreal.

Wheat Pool meetings were held at Langdon on Saturday afternoon, March 9th, and at Dalemead on the same evening, when R. A. MacPherson Director for North Calgary, O. Z. Buchanan, Western Sales Manager, and Chas. Craig, Wheat Pool delegate, delivered addresses. A great deal of interest was evinced by the audience and Wheat Pool matters received thorough discussion.

On the evening of Monday, March 11th, an enthusiastic Wheat Pool meeting was held in the Community Hall at Delacour. A large crowd was present, there being well over a hundred men, women and children. George McIlroy was chairman and Chas. Craig, Wheat Pool delegate, introduced the speakers. R. O. Geerman, secretary of the Pool, gave a splendid talk on the operations of the organization. William Pettinger, Pool field service man, put on a series of lantern slides showing Wheat Pool scenes. E. R. Briggs, superintendent of field service, and Joe Quinn, elevator superintendent, also delivered brief addresses. Entertainment was provided by members of the Wheat Pool head office staff, those participating being Beryl Scott, Jean Fotheringham, and Max Bishop. Supper was served by the ladies during the evening.

The Wheat Pool's "D.O.R.A."

(By J. Bowers, Verdant Valley)

An answer to an anonymous leaflet in my mail.

I have before me as I write, a leaflet containing an extract from the *Calgary Herald* of February 28th, 1929, giving the verbatim report of a speech by A. A. McGillivray, K.C., on the Wheat Pool Bill.

No doubt there are thousands of farmers in this Province and elsewhere reading and studying with anxiety and misgivings the matter contained therein.

The first thought that comes to my mind is: Who so kind as to print such a speech on a special leaf for my benefit? Certainly not the *Herald*! Their advertising patrons might object, as their display of wares would most certainly be at a discount. No turning over to page 9 here with the chance of something else distracting the attention.

"Who then?" I can only conjecture. Well! Mr. McGillivray let me most heartily congratulate you on your effort, and looking at it dispassionately on my part, I believe it to be all that you say it is.

"Dishonest and vile," you say. My own mind tells me "rotten to the core" so far as a document goes.

But Mac, ma man! for all your protestation that you are not against the Wheat Pool, in that same speech you have placed the most dangerous and hellish weapon in the hand of its greatest enemy (the organized Grain Trade) that it has been able to get hold of.

I hold nothing against you on that score, for I can clearly see your point of view and I appreciate what you have done so far and why, and gladly absolve you from all blame.

I am a member of the Wheat Pool and I have had a real bad day of it.

You see, Mac, I am a Scotsman. And to give up all that is contained in that bill that our country and our ancestors have fought and suffered for us, is surely a mighty hard wrench. But, in this particular case IT MUST BE DONE.

Life or Death for the Pool. Wallace was betrayed and suffered death. The Wheat Pool has now also been betrayed, but fortunately is still not captive bound. Her forces are still intact, but she must entrench herself thoroughly to withstand the onslaught which is apparently coming.

The faster she does this, the safer will the organization be and which is more, this bill when it becomes law, absolutely destroys the arsenals and munition factories of her enemy.

That, Mac, is why I have decided to hand over my prerogatives in so far as they concern my contract.

During the World War, Great Britain and the Empire were also in grave danger from betrayal. Her Ministers and Parliament passed an Act known as the Defence of the Realm Act. Dear old "D.O.R.A." What would have happened to her in normal times if any Government had tried to bring her into existence!

As a Pool member I can appreciate what a struggle it must have been to the Directors and Delegates to vote for such drastic measures as are contained in the bill.

But they are also members of the organization themselves and have no certainty of tenure of office. If they could swallow a pill like that and believe in its efficiency, I am willing to try it too.

The strategy displayed by the Executive in bringing forward this bill, in my opinion, is of the highest order. If this is the work of the Chief of the General Staff, President H. W. Wood, it may yet prove to be the crowning glory of his career.

To my fellow members of the Wheat Pool, let me say this: Discipline and confident courageous leadership have saved the Empire more than once. It will do the same for the Wheat Pool. There is no necessity to go into a stampede just yet. The life of a Contract is only five years. Even if we should lose a little financially through mismanagement, and we have not done so thus far, it will be as nothing to what we will lose if the organization were utterly destroyed nor to what we have already lost before the Pool came into existence.

Perhaps, after all, Mac, your speech may prove to be another "Fiery Cross." I for one sincerely hope so.

Consideration for B.C. Farmers in Grain Rates Is Requested

Resolution Moved by Donald Cameron Deals With Domestic Rates

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

On motion of Donald Cameron (U.F.A.) Innisfail, the Assembly definitely went on record on March 5th, urging—

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Assembly, sympathetic consideration should be given to the application of the United Farmers of British Columbia for a revision of the domestic rates on grain to the Pacific Coast, and that the Government should communicate with the Government of British Columbia and give such support as is mutually agreed.

Mr. Cameron pointed out that the market for Alberta feed grains was a very considerable one in British Columbia, and any discrimination in freight rates ultimately was reflected in the price the Alberta farmer received for his product. Under existing rates, the Alberta farmer paid 41½ cents per hundred from Calgary or Edmonton to Vancouver, under the domestic rate, "as compared with 18 cents to a point equidistant to Fort William, or 132 per cent higher domestic rate to British Columbia than eastward." Yet it had been brought out at an inquiry before the railway committee some time ago that 18 cents from Calgary or Edmonton to Vancouver would still net a profit of 20 per cent after all charges had been taken care of. This was admitted by the railways.

Mr. Cameron dealt with certain objections raised by the Canadian milling industry, which with the railways opposed the reduction, and contended that these were ill-founded, and purely propaganda, and that in any event the Alberta farmer should not be penalized for the protection of the flour milling industry of the whole of Canada.

U.F.A. Convention Asked Lower Domestic Rates

At the Annual Convention of the U.F.A. in January, following the delivery of an address by J. E. Armishaw, secretary of the United Farmers of British Columbia, a resolution was adopted unanimously asking the Executive to apply to the Board of Railway Commissioners for an equalization of the freight rates on domestic and export grain from Alberta to British Columbia. The preamble points out that the rate on grain and grain products for consumption in B.C. is more than double the corresponding rate on grain for export, and that this was a handicap to B.C. Poultry raisers who used this grain for feed purposes, and also that it hindered the development of this market for Alberta feed grains.

"The principle of appropriating money from the rich for the sake of the community is already established in our country; in the form of income tax, supertax, and death duties the rich already provide for education, health insurance, unemployment insurance, and pensions, that is, they themselves pay for all the 'social services.' By the enormous extension of this principle in the future, and by this alone, can we destroy the crying injustice of a privileged class and achieve the final freedom, the economic freedom of the British people."—Lord Eustmoor.

Province to Make Conveyance Charge

(Continued from page 2)

applicable to the whole Province, and said that it was regrettable that many people who could take advantage of these clauses either did not know that the act was there for their protection or failed to act until they were "up against foreclosure proceedings." If in case of difficulty arising, the matter were taken up at once with the Bureau, adjustment could often be made. Even those who had come for assistance at the last moment had frequently been helped.

At this point a delegate remarked that he knew of people who would have been thrown out on the road allowances if it had not been for Mr. Brownlee's intervention.

The vote was then taken, and amendment and motion lost, approximately the same number of votes being cast in its favor as for the motion of censure.

TO SETTLE TELEPHONE QUESTION

An Act to amend the Public Utilities Act, which was explained by its sponsor, Hon. V. W. Smith, as providing a means of settlement for the telephone dispute between the Government and the city of Edmonton, has been introduced in the Legislature and was discussed on March 14th, Messrs. Gibbs and Duggan and Premier Brownlee taking part as well as the Minister. It provides that in the event of final failure of negotiations for purchase by the Province, there will be an appeal to the Board of Public Utilities.

"A Definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance"

How the "C.J.R." Lodge Matter, Raised by a Member Who Was Highly Critical, Was Laid to Rest After Thorough Inquiry

By NORMAN F. PRIESTLEY

EDMONTON, March 13. — Asking leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing "a definite matter of urgent public importance," namely, the recent purchase by the Government of the properties known as the C.J.R. Lodge and adjoining properties in the city of Edmonton, J. T. Shaw, Liberal leader, commenced on February 22nd, an attempt to prove something or other in connection with the transaction named. The Speaker ruled the motion out of order. The matter was subsequently referred on the motion of Mr. Shaw, seconded by the Minister of Public Works, Mr. McPherson, to the Public Accounts Committee.

Proceedings in Committee

The proceedings before the Public Accounts Committee in connection with the purchase by the Government of the C.J.R. Lodge were opened by Mr. Shaw calling the registrar of land titles. Mr. Kinnaird produced the transfer from Mr. Bunnin, the vendor, which ultimately vested the title in the Government. That transfer showed a consideration of $46,635 for the land and buildings. Subsequently the Attorney-General produced a valuation by Robinson & Company of the furniture and furnishings in the building, showing a valuation of $5,365. These two figures give the purchase price of $52,000 paid by the Government. Mr. Shaw had the registrar produce the transfers registered on each of the four occasions that the property had changed hands prior to the purchase by the Government. In every one of these transfers the consideration was stated at $24,000, apportioned as follows: $6,000 on the land and $18,000 on the buildings.

Mr. Bunnin was then called by Mr. Shaw, and his evidence clearly established that in making the deal for the purchase by him from Fournier of the C.J.R. Lodge, he had placed a value of $34,000 on his equity in his own properties and had figured that the encumbrances against the C.J.R. Lodge that he would have to assume amounted to $21,000, bringing the value of the C.J.R. Lodge property up to the sum of $55,000. He put in evidence a letter from the real estate agent who had taken the matter up with him, showing that Fournier had placed a price of $60,000 on the C.J.R. Lodge as a basis for negotiations with Bunnin for the purchase.

R. M. E. Evans was called before the Committee and stated that his connection with the matter dated back some sixteen years, to the time when a scheme for the centralization and extension of the Government Buildings had been figured out, and referred to a newspaper article in 1927 where it had been intimated that the Government was in the position of being forced to extend. At that time he had taken the matter up with the Government and subsequently, following the fire in the old buildings, he had again brought the matter to the attention of the Government and had been instructed to see what he could do to line up a proposition; he had made enquiries and discussed the matter with the Minister of Public Works and as a result had been instructed to find out what figure he could get on the C.J.R. Lodge.

First Bought [illegible]

He had instructed Mr. Harrison to approach the proprietor with the view to find out his lowest figure. Mr. Harrison had done so and had reported to him that Mr. Bunnin had apparently taken over the building at $55,000, and had indicated this as a price that he would require. He produced a document showing that he had ultimately obtained an option on the property at the price of $52,000.

Mr. Harrison was called before the Committee and gave details of the interviews he had had with Bunnin leading up to the completion of the option at $52,000.

Geo. R. O'Connor was called by the Attorney General and he explained that he had been instructed by the Government to put through the transaction on behalf of the Government. Mr. O'Connor produced the original letter of instructions from the Government and also his report to the Government on the completion of the transaction. He also handed to the Committee his cancelled cheques showing the complete disbursement of the purchase price.

Show Refuses Invitation

At a subsequent meeting of the committee it was moved that the Attorney General draft a motion covering the findings of the committee. John Buckley objected and moved in amendment that Mr. Shaw be asked, stating he would not vote for any resolution that could be construed as whitewashing the Government in this matter. Mr. Shaw had instituted the proceedings and nothing incriminating had been discovered. If Mr. Shaw was the man he thought he was, Mr. Shaw would come right out and say so, completely exonerating the Department of Public Works of any charge that might have been implied. Mr. Shaw did not respond to this suggestion by offering a motion. A larger committee was named by the Minister of Agriculture but they expressed so much diversity of opinion as to the nature of the findings that it was decided to leave it open for anyone. The final meeting decided to place the evidence before the Assembly.

When the transcript of the evidence was laid on the table on Monday, March 11th, not a word was said. The accusing finger had been lowered. The prevailing silence exonerated the Government of any charge of irregularity or bad business dealing. The same evening, in a discussion of expenditures under the heading of special warrants, George H. Webster was led to admit that nothing discreditable to the Government had been discovered in the enquiry.

Thus was laid to rest the C.J.R. Lodge episode which had involved four meetings of the Public Accounts committee, a committee which had not been called together since the famous St. Albert election and barrels of beer inquiry of 1927.

Committee Now Named on Redistribution

EDMONTON, March 15.—To implement the motion of Premier Brownlee on the question of redistribution passed on Thursday, March 7th, the committee of nine members representing all groups in the Assembly will meet for organization on Tuesday, the 19th. The committee consists of the following: Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, and Minister of Municipal Affairs; Hon. O. L. McPherson, Minister of Public Works; W. G. Farquharson, (U.F.A.) Bibstone; Hugh W. Allan, (U.F.A.) Peace River; Leadus Jaly (U.F.A.) St. Paul; W. H. Shield (U.F.A.), Macleod; G. H. Webster (Lib.) Calgary; Fred White (Lab.) Calgary; C. Y. Weaver (Cons.) Edmonton. Mr. Farquharson is chairman.

The committee will have before it a great deal of carefully collected and compiled data, the work of the Clerk of the Executive Council, John D. Hunt. A map some eight feet square gives the present constituency divisions and the population of every township, village, town, and city in the Province. A large schedule tabulates the rural and urban populations and the number of polls in the constituency, together with the average vote per poll in each constituency. Mr. Hunt will also place at the disposal of the committee a mass of information as to methods and plans of redistribution from every British Dominion; most of which has been accumulated by him through personal correspondence.

N.F.P.

Father (proudly): "Yes, my daughter is now receiving a man's wages."

Visitor: "Oh! when did she marry?"—*Chatham News*

Power Development, School Bill, Old Age Pensions and Guarantees to Co-operatives Are Features of Week's Debates

Government Policy in Support of Co-operative Marketing Assailed by Several Members of Conservative and Liberal Groups —Legislature Deals with Many Matters of Outstanding Public Interest—Bretton Urges That Incurable Insanity Be Made Ground for Divorce

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

Debates on a number of public issues of outstanding interest and importance featured the week in the Alberta Legislative Assembly.

The Government sub-amendment on the power issue was carried after a debate in which Ministers expressed general approval of public ownership, Labor strongly advocated a public ownership policy, and George Webster, Liberal, spoke in favor of the policy of private ownership as advocated by the Conservative leader.

The Old Age Pensions bill passed second reading unanimously, though opposition was strongly expressed to two clauses of the bill.

The new School Bill, introduced by Perren Baker, was the occasion of a very thorough debate, in which the Minister vigorously defended the principles of this proposed legislation.

It had been anticipated that the Assembly would prorogue on March 15th, but this was not found possible. Prorogation is anticipated on the day upon which this issue goes to press (March 20th).

Power Sub-Amendment Adopted Following Debate in Assembly

Ministers Express Views—Labor Strong for Public Ownership—Conservatives Strongly Against

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 11.—The Government sub-amendment on the subject of electrical power, urging that the right of the Province to take over the development and distribution of power as a public utility be safeguarded as far as possible, was carried this evening after a debate in which the general trend of all speeches favored public ownership, with the exception of those of Conservatives and of George Webster of Calgary, a Liberal who professed his preference for development under private ownership. It might be noted, incidentally, that Col. Weaver, on the Conservative side, addressed himself rather to a discussion of the merits of coal as an alternative source of power to hydro, rather than to definite advocacy of private ownership as expressed in the McGillivray resolution. The debate commenced on Friday last, and the speeches delivered on that day were reported in the last issue of *The U.F.A.*

The resolution as carried, after calling for the safeguarding of the Province's rights to develop electrical power as a public utility, asked that the inquiry already undertaken be proceeded with, and that in the meantime no alienation by lease or otherwise of any actual or potential power resource should be permitted until the right of the Province to acquire such resource had been adequately protected.

SMITH GIVES VIEWS ON PROBLEM

Hon. Vernor Smith opened the debate on the Government's amendment to the amendment by placing himself on record as favorable to public ownership and development of power in Alberta—provided, however, that no excessive burden is placed on the Provincial finances. No one desired to see the railway story repeated.

While the Baxter report had been presented, he was of the opinion that the time had arrived for a more complete survey and report—one that would embrace not only costs of production and distribution but would also deal with the conflicting claims of all those varied sources of power generation—hydro, coal, gas, etc.—with which this Province was so bountifully provided.

There were many angles to the development and distribution of power and these should be carefully considered before embarking on any large project of expenditure. Power distribution must be considered from the standpoint of distributing it to cities, towns, villages, hamlets, rural communities, and last but not least, for industrial purposes.

While he had been interested in the clash of theory between the Labor, Liberal and Conservative groups as to public versus private ownership, the real question before the Assembly was how to best meet the needs of all the people of the Province in the most practical way.

He could not agree to any suggestion that would tie up the resources of the Province while a survey was being made.

Mr. Smith emphasized the importance of avoiding political interference with the extension of power lines and service, declaring that whatever organization might be set up by the Government should be given complete control.

"I have no hesitation in making the statement that no interference of a political nature has been permitted in the dealing with the business of either the railways or telephones since I have been Minister of these Departments," declared Mr. Smith. "That policy, strictly adhered to, has been one of the greatest factors in bringing them up to the standard they have attained and of solving the financial difficulties they suffered from for a good many years. I have no fear on that score, provided, of course, the organization is clothed with the necessary authority to avoid it."

STATES BELIEF SHOWN IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Mr. Pattinson (Labor), Edson, came out strongly for public ownership and ridiculed the stereotyped arguments of the Conservative leader against it.

He took it that the Government amendment was based upon a belief in public ownership. The major part of his speech was devoted to a thorough consideration of the rival claims of hydro and coal as the generating basis. He wanted the Government enquiry to be comprehensive in the widest sense of the term. It should not confine itself to hydro. If we were to keep abreast of the times, we must take cognizance of the great advances made by steam plants and the even greater improvements that might be expected.

DUGGAN STRONG FOR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

D. M. Duggan (Cons.), Edmonton, expressed himself as in complete accord with Mr. McGillivray's stand for private ownership. In any event the Province was in no financial shape to undertake any new commitments. We had our hands full now in meeting the legitimate and ever-increasing needs of medical services, education and road construction. Taking the latter as an example, he believed public opinion would demand the expenditure in the next three or four years, under this head alone, of some 25 million dollars.

WEBSTER SUPPORTS CONSERVATIVE POLICY

George Webster (Lib.), Calgary, said he had listened to professions of faith as to public vs. private ownership from all groups in the Assembly with the exception of the Government benches. He was still waiting for something definite from that quarter. He agreed with Mr. White of Calgary that there had been unreasonable delay by the Government in deciding on a policy. What was the Government waiting for? It had already caused three enquiries and reports to be made; the first by engineers of the Ontario Hydro, the second by its own engineers as to relative advantages of hydro and coal, and lastly the Baxter report. And yet Cabinet Ministers were still talking about need for further study and the difficulty of finding competent men to help them.

He was quite frank in stating his faith in private ownership. He believed that at the present time the Province could be best served by hydro development, espe-

chiefly if adequate mountain storage could be secured. Taking a long view of the matter, he had no doubt that the territorial zone of which Calgary was the centre would eventually absorb all the power produced in the Bow River Valley. It was reasonable to suppose that the territory from Red Deer north, which he might call the Edmonton zone, would be served in the future by steam generating plants. At present, however, there was no advantage in locking up vast sums of money in unnecessary plants.

Dealing with the remarks of C. L. Gibbs, of Edmonton, Mr. Webster said he thought that the advantages of public ownership had been overstated. He believed in private ownership under Government control, such as the Public Utilities Board was equipped to give. He agreed with previous speakers that the Province had plenty of outlet for its governmental energies in such legitimate directions as health, education and roads without interfering with the business of private utility corporations.

BROWNLEE RIDICULES McGILLIVRAY'S ARGUMENTS

Premier Brownlee made it quite clear that he was not going to be led into a discussion of public versus private ownership. He was inclined to be sympathetic to public ownership provided the conditions were favorable. He ridiculed Mr. McGillivray's suggestion that such Government activities as we were discussing would lead us into communism. Surely the Government of Ontario was not communistic! He disagreed with the contention that a Government cannot give efficient utility service. Everything depends upon the people in charge. Alberta, in its railway and telephone operations, had disproved this old stock argument about Government inefficiency.

After all this boasted efficiency of private enterprise was subject to considerable qualification. The grain trade in Alberta had been very far short of efficiency before the advent of the Wheat Pool. Only last year the Legislature had been compelled to pass legislation to prevent overlapping and over capitalization in power development.

In the last analysis, the efficiency of public ownership depended upon three factors:

First, ability to provide adequate capital for full and economic development; Second, ability to secure efficient and honest management; Third, freedom from political interference.

He believed that the present Government was quite capable of ensuring the two last factors, but he was not ready to say that adequate capital could be provided without hampering and handicapping other vital Provincial needs.

Any delay that had occurred in formulating a policy had been related to the factor of finance. It was necessary to proceed with caution; public confidence in public operation had been severely shaken by the early history of Provincial railways and telephones. It had not yet been fully re-established. He had been criticised from both sides but he was prepared to stand or fall by the policy of first working out the Railway, Telephone and Financial problems of the Province, before embarking on some new and difficult enterprise.

Before launching out on such a scheme he wanted to know the full implications of such a decision. As a matter of fact, the Province was not yet in a favorable position for taking up public ownership. He questioned very much their right to expropriate the Calgary Power Co., which in any consideration of this matter must be a basic factor. So far they had not been given control of their power resources by the Dominion Government and even when this took place they would have to face the problem of acquiring plant, equipment and, possibly, goodwill by process of arbitration, with all the danger of a prohibitive price being fixed.

CONTRACTS ALREADY ENTERED INTO

Even if Alberta got back her natural resources we should have to recognize contracts already entered into by the Federal Government. Nothing had been disclosed in this debate that would justify hasty action. The Government were watching the situation closely and were anxious to have experts of their own to make the necessary enquiries and keep them advised, so that when conditions might be more favorable for a forward Government policy they would be in a position to act quickly and intelligently in the best interests of the Province as a whole.

He desired to say, to any who thought that the Government could give them electric power in a reasonably short time at reasonable rates, that all their information was in discouragement of this idea. Even in more densely populated Provinces, it had been found necessary to subsidize the rural lines. It must not be forgotten that no part of Alberta had as many as two consumers to the mile—few parts even had one. An enquiry in the Camrose district had revealed that only about 30 per cent of rural consumers would take service, if available, at self-supporting rates.

The Government was trying to protect the public interest in every way. A special clause had been put into the Ghost River agreement with the Calgary Power Co., giving the Province the same rights of "recapture" as are now enjoyed by the Dominion Government.

By legislation and by the actions of the Public Utilities Board, overlapping and undue competition had been prevented.

The Government could not accept Mr. Irwin's amendment against public ownership because it was not prepared to commit itself in either direction. It could not accept Mr. Shaw's motion, because it contemplates an enquiry by some outside committee of engineers. Such an enquiry would not be competent to decide between public and private ownership or even as to the relative advantages of hydro and steam.

The Government preferred to employ competent engineers to work along definite lines looking to the protection of the Provincial interest and to placing the Government in a good strategic position to act when the right moment should come.

SHAW THINKS McGILLIVRAY'S CASE WEAK

J. T. Shaw contended that his resolution had been wrongly interpreted. He never suggested that an outside commission should be appointed or that they should be charged to decide between public and private ownership.

The Conservatives had evidently made up their minds to stand pat for private ownership. He was not very much impressed by the arguments of the Conservative leader—they were somewhat hoary with age and frayed at the edges. Times and viewpoints had changed since J. S. Mill. Neither was he greatly impressed by the quotations from the speeches of leading Americans. He would guarantee to dig up just as many and just as distinguished quotations on the other side of the question.

He quoted official statistics as to the inefficiency of private industrial concern. Large numbers had failed on account of speculation, fraud, incompetence, inexperience, wasteful competition, lack of credit, extravagance or neglect. He was not worried as to the alleged inefficiency of public ownership. He cited the case of the C.N.R. in answer to Mr. McGillivray's claim with respect to American railways.

Concluding, Mr. Shaw was not insistent on the wisdom of public ownership at this time. There was need, however, for a thorough investigation. That was all he asked for in the resolution. If the Province decided to go into the power business after the investigation it would not be hampered if the status quo were retained. He criticized the Government's amendment to the amendment, and charged that they had done very little so far. These last few observations were made in the evening after adjournment for dinner. The question was put, clearing the amendment out of the way in favor of the Government sub-amendment, the motion of Mr. Shaw being subsequently carried as amended by the Government's amendment.

Trackways Bill Killed by 35 Votes to 18 on Second Reading

Means Defeated Proposal to Make Incurable Insanity Ground for Divorce—Pensions Scheme for Teachers Discussed

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 12.—The Trackways bill, which was killed in committee last year by a narrow majority on a motion "that the committee rise," was rejected by a two to one vote on second reading today, and thus will not go even as far as the committee stage. The defeat of a private bill on second reading is generally regarded as an indication that the Assembly does not approve of the principle involved.

Teachers' Pension Fund Proposed

Two resolutions were discussed at length by the Assembly without any determining vote. The first of these was moved by Hector Lang, the Liberal member for Medicine Hat, and called for the creation of a fund out of which, pending the enactment of a teachers' pension plan, pensions might be paid to teachers who having rendered long service in the profession, are unable to continue on account of ill-health or old age. It was proposed in the resolution that the Minister of Education should be empowered to make provision by agreement with such teachers as might become parties thereto, for the creation and maintenance of the fund. While sympathy with many of the objects which Mr. Lang had in view was expressed by members of the Cabinet, it was made clear that the Government do not consider the time opportune. The Premier stated that until the Minister of Education could bring down a scheme which would be satisfactory to

the teachers, and which could be recommended to the Assembly by the Government, it was undesirable that any scheme should be brought down at all. Mr. Lang adjourned the debate, and it is not expected that this matter will come up again during the present session.

INCURABLE INSANITY AS GROUND FOR DIVORCE

The other resolution was moved by D. C. Breton (U.F.A.) Ledue and proposed an appeal to the Dominion Government to amend the divorce laws so as to free from the marriage bond the husbands or wives of those certified to be incurably insane. The suggestion was made that time should be given for the consideration of this important matter, and accordingly Mr. Breton adjourned the debate, satisfied for the present to have called attention to the nature of the problem.

LANG INTRODUCES HIS RESOLUTION

Introducing his resolution, Mr. Lang, after eulogising the teaching profession, stated that he thought it was time to implement the compliments made to the profession by something more tangible. Nothing would stabilize teaching more than the assurance that after long service old age would have some recompense. He gave figures showing the cost of education and maintaining that taxing bodies were saving at the expense of the teacher. There were 5,000 teachers in the Province. Of these 1,900 changed schools from year to year. It cost $250 or $250 to give normal training to these and they only served three and a half years on the average. It would save money to secure more permanence.

All the other Provinces except Saskatchewan had some pension scheme and that Province was considering one. His resolution did not ask for that, but pressed that in the meantime something be done for the ten to twenty teachers who were in need of such provisions. They had borne the burden of pioneer conditions. To give them similar recognition to that given in B.C. would entail only from $5,000 to $10,000.

C. L. Gibbs, supporting Mr. Lang, stressed the point that it was not a compassionate measure that was being sought but something that would pay in better service in this vital public work. The public was getting anything but full value for money spent. We might have fine schools and a splendid curriculum but unless the teaching profession were made attractive to a high type of person the money would be largely wasted. The correspondence of several years past showed that the Government were in favor of these considerations. He hoped something could be done to materialize them.

MUST BE SUPPLEMENTARY TO REORGANIZATION

Hon. Perren Baker, Minister of Education expressed general agreement with the arguments advanced; and was glad that Mr. Gibbs had drawn attention to the benefits to be derived by the whole educational system. There was a duplication in the figures offered. Certificates were issued on two occasions to the same person, so that the number of teachers certificated each year averaged about half of the number stated. Under the system of education now in vogue a pension scheme would not have much effect on the 3,000 other than town schools. Something more was required. A pension scheme would only be supplementary to general reorganization.

The Government desired to be able to inform the Assembly to the full as to what was involved before being committed to any comprehensive scheme. What was asked for by Mr. Lang's motion could be taken care of by provisions already contained in the laws, without setting up such machinery as would be necessitated by the resolution.

Liberal leader Shaw, supporting the resolution, wondered how long the Government were going to take before affording relief to the teaching profession. He cited a case of a lady who after having taught for seventeen years was left on the charity of her friends. It was not a question of charity, however, but of lending security to the profession. The Minister of Education, he charged, had introduced a plan of re-organization of the educational system of the Province which had met with both favor and disfavor. He had not included provision for teachers' pensions in his plan. He might reorganize all his life, but unless he did something to improve the morale of the teachers themselves it would be of no avail. Other Provinces could do it. Now was the day of opportunity.

Premier Brownlee reminded his hearers that he had taught in Ontario for three years at the princely salary of $400 a year; so he was not unaware of the problems before them. He had also discussed it at length with teachers and representatives of interested bodies. He would call attention again to the fact that there were many things that the Government would like to do; but there were the financial limitations. If the Government had done everything that had been advocated, public expenditure would have been doubled see this.

OTHER SCHEMES WHICH TEACHERS DISLIKE

Mr. Brownlee contended that to create the impression that other Provinces had schemes of teachers' pensions that were satisfactory to the profession was to mislead very definitely. The B.C. scheme was practically inoperative and would certainly not meet the approval of the teachers of Alberta. In Manitoba the scheme was non-contributory and teachers had expressed the hope that nothing similar would be enacted in Alberta. Only in the older and wealthier Provinces was any adequate scheme in effect. He did not propose to be bound by anything that would commit the Province to a course of action before all that was involved had come under review. He preferred not to deal with the matter at all unless it were dealt with adequately. This resolution committed the Government to the principle of contribution. The delegation of the Alliance which had appeared before himself and the Minister that morning had been asked to furnish names and particulars of cases such as would be covered by the resolution. These would be dealt with without any suggestion of indigence.

A. A. McGillivray, suggested that the resolution be amended by striking out the words "that pending the enactment of a Teachers' Pension plan," He further declared that inasmuch as the proposed pension scheme which had been discussed in connection with the resolution involved an annual expenditure of only $130,000 out of a total expenditure of $15,111,000, there should be a paring down of other less important ones to meet this need. It was important that the teaching profession should be relieved of the harassment and bedevilment due to fear of want in old age.

MANY NICKLES WHICH MAKE A MUCKLE

Mr. McPherson reminded the Assembly that the $130,000 so minimized by the Conservative leader was one of many sums which ultimately made up the fifteen millions of which expenditure so much complaint had been made. He had listened to the honorable member and thought how many similar sums he would like to spend for services which were in demand. It came down in the cold light of scrutiny to a matter of dollars and cents. Mr. McGillivray had himself instanced this many times. Mr. McPherson believed that the proposed Education Bill would go far toward a solution of many teachers' problems.

Mr. Lang moved the adjournment of the debate, which is equivalent in this instance to shelving the matter for another year.

BRETON CITES CASES IN PONOKA HOSPITAL

Mr. Breton, in moving "that this Assembly is of the opinion that the Government should request the Dominion Government to amend the law as to divorce by recognizing as a ground for divorce insanity pronounced as incurable by competent medical authority," traversed somewhat the same ground as on a former occasion during the debate on the Ponoka situation. There were, he said, fifty patients in Ponoka under forty years of age who had been there three years or more, who were married. There was practically no hope of release and the husband or wife in such cases was compelled by law to remain linked with a partner who was incurably insane for the remainder of life. He cited a case where a young woman had been left on a farm and for years the sum of a dollar a day was charged against the land during the husband's detention in Ponoka. The intolerable situation had finally forced an illegal union. Mr. Breton cited laws governing marriage and divorce by which we were governed which were, he said, medieval. The subject was now before a Royal Commission in England, and he thought it was time some action was taken to relieve these unfortunates in Canada. Eighteen countries had laws making insanity a ground of divorce.

Mr. McGillivray thought that while the considerations advanced by Mr.

D. C. BRETON, M.L.A.

Breton were serious, it was equally serious to contemplate the possibility of divorce being granted and then the subsequent recovery of the person declared to have been incurably insane. Experts were far from infallible. He reminded the Assembly that marriage was for good or ill. He suggested that the matter be allowed to stand. Following brief comment by Mr. Boudreau, Mr. Shaw said he thought that it was perhaps advisable for the Dominion Government to consider the question. There were the cases of the husbands and wives of those imprisoned for life and many similar cases. He thought it unwise to pass the resolution.

Before adjourning the debate, Mr. Breton stated that safeguards were applied in the countries where these laws obtained by taking account of the length of incarceration, holding a judicial enquiry and by the findings of a medical commission.

PREMIER CASE FOR TRACKWAYS BILL

The principle involved in the Alberta Trackways Bill was that the Government should allow private enterprise to supply a hard surface road for pleasure purposes on private right of way between Calgary and Banff, stated Mr. Claypool on introducing the measure for second reading. The company was reducing the scope of the bill of last year to this one road. Roads, said Mr. Claypool, were without doubt a public utility, and service must be given in a fairly uniform way throughout the Province. It would not be fair for the Government to build a pleasure road for a certain class of people. The Government, too, had a big enough task ahead in its general program without undertaking work of this kind. The present trail was inadequate, and there were but three courses open: to meet the demand by building a suitable road from the revenues of the Province, which was as unnecessary as taking over the Banff Springs hotel; allowing the road to continue as at present with just ordinary repairs; or accepting the principle of the bill and allowing private enterprise to undertake construction and operation under control. The Province was not in a position to pay the costs of this service, and it was not right to refuse to allow others to provide it.

BROWNLEE CONVINCED WOULD AGGRAVATE PROBLEM

Stating emphatically that while he spoke as a private member and each other member was at liberty to act just as he chose, he had the same attitude to this question as he took last year, Premier Brownlee said he would reiterate that the project was premature; it would not relieve but would rather increase the road problem. He knew of one toll gate in all Canada. It was on a mountain side and part of an amusement resort scheme. The Banff-Calgary road was not in a suitable part of the Province for the use of toll gates. He maintained also that the figures submitted had taken into account only the maximum use of the road by the traffic of recent years. The project was doomed to failure. It could be very profitable in construction to its promoters; but it might never be operated; and might ultimately land in bankruptcy and be left on the hands of the Government.

McGILLIVRAY SUPPORTS THE SCHEME

Maintaining that were it not for the necessity of crossing road allowances the matter of the building of this super-roadway would not necessarily have come before the Legislature, Mr. McGillivray assailed the arguments of the Premier, while stating at the outset that he too wished it understood that he was speaking as a private member and would advance the same considerations if the road were to be constructed from Edmonton to Jasper. The Utilities Board would protect the public in the formation of this company. There was no legal responsibility resting on the Government that would force taking it over in the event of failure; and the position of the Government had been so well advertised that no investor could expect or hope to make the Government responsible for any loss in the event of failure.

Mr. McGillivray challenged the Premier's statement that there was no need. There was a need, because there was a demand, just as there was a demand for parks or bowling alleys or theatres. There should be a road over which those who are willing to pay for the privilege of travel might pass. The importance of tourists to the country should not be forgotten. Private capital should not be prevented from meeting a demand. He saw nothing to indicate that the building of such a highway would create more demand for similar highways. The taste of the travelling public was already educated to paved roads by their existence in the cities.

Mr. Brownlee had contended that the calculations of the promoters had been based on maximum returns. This was not fair. Thousands would make use of a safe, dustless, bumpless road who do not travel at present. Then, too, millions of dollars would be spent in the Province in material and work. The Government could surely trust the Board of Public Utilities to protect the interests of the public in this case through a public act just as in the case of a joint stock company. The toll principle, he contended, was not applied in this instance to the king's highway; if so he would have been against it. The Government would not be called upon to guarantee bonds.

The member said that he would support the bill for the following reasons: the spending of capital in development should be encouraged; private enterprise should not be obstructed; the proposed road did not affect the use of the regular highways except to relieve traffic congestion and maintenance charges thereon; it provided enjoyment for our own people; it would attract thousands of tourists, who would spend money and were in many instances potential settlers; and it would make known to the world one of Canada's greatest playgrounds.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS FIRMLY OPPOSED

Mr. McPherson said there were no new arguments. Would Mr. McGillivray be responsible for instance for authorizing a railway without being assured of its having sufficient backing? He doubted it. There was no longer any force in the cry to spend money for the creating of labor. Other and sounder considerations must govern. It was beyond doubt that demand for facilities was created by development. That there would be many to derive benefit from the proposed roadway it would be idle to deny, but he was not so convinced of the argument about tourists. They would not be affected in any hour they might undertake by the knowledge that they could travel for two hours on a paved road from Calgary to Banff. There would be some little saving in maintenance but none appreciable in capital expenditures by the building of this road.

Summing up, Mr. Claypool said that the figures given were not too optimistic. Account had been taken of the traffic for six months only and none of the casual traffic. The promoters were willing to show that the money was properly raised and to have construction supervised. The only way they could get returns from their investments was to operate the road. If it were a failure there would be no demand to take it over. If there were no demand to take it over, it would be a success. He thought no group of men should be penalized because they did not have unlimited resources behind them. It would be calamitous for the Province to undertake the building of paved roads.

The bill was defeated on second reading by a vote of 18 to 35. In the division, all party lines were crossed, nine members of the Government side voting with four Liberals, two Labor and three Conservatives in favor of the motion, while the thirty-five U.F.A. members who opposed were assisted by Hector Lang among the Liberals and Messrs. Pattinson, Smeaton, Gibbs and Parkyn, of the Labor group.

HOW THE MEMBERS VOTED

The recorded vote on the bill was as follows:

For the motion: Messieurs Cameron, Galbraith, Smith, N. S., Matheson, Claypool, McKeen, Smith, W. C., Ennesauer, Delisle, Shaw, Boudreau, Frame, Prevey, White, Christophers, McGillivray, Duggan, Irwin.

Against the motion: Messieurs Smith, V. W., Reid, Brownlee, Lymburn, McPherson, Parlby (Mrs.), Baker, MacLachlan, Sparks, Shield, Carson, Love, Forster, Buckley, Peterson, Cook, Smith, G. W., Stringam, Sanders, Proudfoot, Conner, Washburn, Andrews, Brown, Mikkelsen, Hennig, Breton, McCool, Walker, Allen, Lang, Gibbs, Smeaton, Pattinson, Parkyn.

Paired: Weaver (for); Joly (against). Webster (for); Hoadley (against).

The remainder of the evening was spent in giving third reading to twenty-two bills. "The Mental Defectives Act," after some discussion as to the wisdom of allowing people of certain types to be released to be taken care of in private homes, was given a second reading with the two Conservative lawyers, Messrs. McGillivray and Weaver, dissenting.

Sustain Defeat in Committee of Whole on Alimony Clause

Provision for Imprisonment Eliminated on Motion of McGillivray, Whose Attendance Slim

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 13.—It is often the dullest afternoon that provides the liveliest moment in the Legislature. The drone of the voices of members dealing without show of interest with clauses of bills in Committee of the Whole this afternoon, bills largely quite uncontentious in nature, had lulled the press gallery almost to sleep. Suddenly the trim figure of the Conservative leader was seen to rise. Only about half the members were present. The Attorney General was supported on the Treasury benches by one other Minister.

Mr. McGillivray protested that subsection (c) of (1) of Section 9 of Bill num-

Old Age Pensions Bill Passes Second Reading Unanimously

McCaffrey Leads Attack on the Bill to Provide for Guarantees to Co-operative Enterprises

petitors to destroy them in business. If the Government, instead of trying to destroy private enterprise, would build it up, there would be much more hope of prosperity. Build up industry and home markets would be created for the farmers.

The Premier thanked Mr. McGillivray for his advice. There was no thought on the part of the Government of retarding industrial development. On the contrary the Government was keen to promote the same. This bill, said Mr. Brownlee, was to provide capital backing for the farmers of the Province, who, *though they had built up the credit of the country*, were not able to finance their co-operative enterprise otherwise. Fifteen or twenty thousand farmers would thereby be enabled to carry on business.

OTHER CASES OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The financial resources of the Province were put behind old age pensions. The coal mining industry had been assisted by the Government. It was to be remembered that this was a non-profit organization which would assist the producer to get every possible return for his labor. This idea of assisting producers when banded together was not new. It had been done in this Province as far back as 1912. The Government of Saskatchewan had done this to the extent of millions without any greater margin of safety. The Minister of Agriculture of the United States Government had said in his hearing at Kansas City that if the farmers of the United States could demonstrate their ability to get together the Federal Government would assist them to the extent of ten to twenty millions and more. To assist agriculture in this way was now part of the declared policy of neighboring Provinces, and of most of the states of the union. The Department of Agriculture of that country had a branch devoted exclusively to the encouragement of co-operative marketing.

Mr. McGillivray: "If it is a fact that co-operative marketing is a proven success, why does it need Government backing?"

Mr. Brownlee: "Some of those who have made a little more of a study of co-operative marketing than my honorable friend understand."

Mr. Parkyn: "Would the Government give financial backing to the trades unions of the country in order to enable them to demand higher prices for their commodity, their labor?" (Strong expressions of approval from the desks of Messrs. McGillivray, Webster and Giroux).

PREVEY RAISES STRONG OBJECTION

Mr. Prevey was a bit timid, he said, in approaching this subject for fear it might be argued that he had a personal interest in opposing the proposed bill. He was not opposed to co-operation; but was opposed to the Government putting its credit resources behind the Dairy Pool. If the Government would follow this course for long it would soon need much more. He declared that dairy production was seriously declining. The Pool was to blame. He quoted some figures concerning the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries. That institution had no assets after all these years. The B.C. co-operatives were in such a predicament that they did not know what to do. He wanted to know if a man was going to be able to come into Alberta and have a free chance to make a living? He believed that the Premier was absolutely honest in his convictions but nevertheless quite wrong. He, Mr. Prevey, had come to the Province in its early days, had gone into the dairy business with little capital. The business had been killed. Producers had been satisfied with the prices received till the Pool idea had begun to circulate. They had had no idea of being robbed till this propaganda had commenced. He maintained that if the Pools were economically sound they did not need this Government backing. They would in the course of their operations gather all the business and private capital would have a chance to withdraw. Private capital was now constantly under the threat of unfair competition. If the people wanted Pools, concluded Mr. Prevey, let them have them. He had started with little more than a thousand dollars; and had done more for the dairying business than any other man in the Province. He held that the 15 per cent was no security. He thought that the Government ought to fully declare its policy so that private enterprise would know what to do. They might for instance vote the full million dollars to the Dairy Pool forthwith. He would prefer that to a hidden policy.

McPHERSON SEES OPPOSITION BECOMING MORE OPEN

Challenging Mr. McGillivray to cite an instance of the destruction of private enterprise by the growth of the co-operative movement, Mr. McPherson concluded a brief speech in which he reminded Mr. Prevey and others that views did differ upon this question of marketing. He thought it quite apparent that opposition to co-operative marketing was becoming more marked and open each year. The grain trade was an instance of the fact that private business was often stimulated rather than destroyed by the activities of the co-operative institutions. There had never been so much activity, never such a building program as that of the grain trade in the last two years.

The experience of the Government in backing co-operative enterprise did not warrant the fears expressed. There had been guarantees behind the Wheat Pool and these had not been needed. The Assembly would not back any unsound venture. If the dairy interest of Mr. Prevey, for instance, were on a sound economic basis it would not be defeated. If it were beaten it would be beaten by sound economic laws.

Mr. McGillivray, answering Mr. McPherson's challenge, said that the Government were at last showing their teeth in this bill. The party opposite was by its strength putting the credit of the whole Province behind the business activities of one section.

Mr. McPherson read a declaration of the Winnipeg Conservative Convention which he believed Mr. McGillivray had assisted to frame which stood unmistakably for assistance to agriculture.

BACKING GIVEN IN UNITED STATES

That there were 11,400 dairying associations in the United States to provide central selling agencies for which there had been some three to five hundred million dollars of backing, was the statement of Mr. Hoadley. There should be some source of assistance for agricultural producers. It was an accepted principle. $1,700,000 had been put into the Live Stock Encouragement Act; 903 associations had participated, involving say over 4,000 individual farmers and their families. Twenty thousand people of the Province had received goods to the value mentioned without any monetary security.

Denmark was an instance, he contended, of the fact that there was no comparison between the success of agriculture under co-operation and under private control. *In that country there were no very rich and no very poor. That were a good ideal for Alberta.* He cited Ireland, New Zealand and Australia for instances of state assistance to agriculture. It was a recognized principle everywhere.

At this juncture, Mr. Duggan asked leave to adjourn the debate.

DEBATE RESUMED ON FRIDAY

EDMONTON, March 15. — Resuming the debate on the bill to provide guarantees for co-operative undertakings, D. M. Duggan (Cons.), Edmonton, declared emphatically that because the Conservative group were opposed to the granting of Government credit to marketing associations, it did not follow that they were opposed to co-operative marketing. They were heartily in favor of co-operation. The success of associated effort in the fields of industry and commerce was amply proven. It was the giving of Government support to one section that was open to criticism. If that principle were accepted the Government must be prepared to go much further than at present. Heaven only knew how far! Other groups such as clothing and furniture makers might arise that the raw products were here and the markets here and come to the Government for financial backing. They had just as much right to do so. It was speculating with the people's money.

This was an extreme form of paternalism, continued Mr. Duggan, and its effect on the young men of the country would be serious. Young university graduates would be coming forward presently to get their dole. To lean on the Government destroyed initiative which was a fundamental element in progress. The experience of the Province in the matter of guarantees had not been happy. There had been the northern railways involving millions of loss; the Lethbridge Northern, which would entail loss running into millions; drainage districts, off which 20 per cent had to be written; the Cow Bill involving some three or four hundred thousand dollars; and seed grain liens. He would admit that there had been no loss as yet nor was any loss in sight in the case of guarantees to co-operative institutions, but the Government should proceed with caution. The bill should name the specific amount and the avenues of expenditure.

ONE MILLION TO BE TOTAL GUARANTEE

Premier Brownlee explained that the words "per year" had not been intended in drafting the bill. One million dollars would be the total guarantee.

Attorney-General Lymburn said that here was another proof of the fact that the Liberals and Conservatives did not represent the business elements of the cities from which they came. He could not imagine the business men of the cities expressing such views. Business interests were alive to the need of investigating the failure of agriculture. Big Business itself had built up its wealth under Government protection. Farmers had been compelled to sell their products at a price fixed by business interests. The farmers' capital was all sunk in his land and equipment. He was not able to meet industry on the same terms.

Eliminate or depress agriculture in the Province of Alberta and the whole business structure would fall to the ground. One had only to move around

facing the premier and how the expressions of concern on every hand for the success of harvest to realize that. The Government was recognizing that agriculture had not received a square deal in the past and was determined to make it possible for it to prosper.

J. T. Shaw, Liberal leader, while objecting to the reasoning of Mr. Lymburn, admitted that tariffs had imposed unjust burdens on the consuming public, and said that he had no objections to the bill.

CHRISTOPHERS ON CO-OPERATIVE PHILOSOPHY

The occasion provided F. M. Christophers (Lab.) Rocky Mountain, an opportunity to take a whack at both the old parties and to lecture the Government side on lack of a governing political philosophy. Competition died when true co-operation entered. When the farmers ceased to supply dairy products, the Edmonton City Dairy and other such institutions would go out of business. The members of the Government, representing the farming industry on the other hand, were drifting along. They could not see that the present bill was the outcome of the operation of economic determinism. He contended that there is no alternative but to proceed on the one hand to a socialistic commonwealth or on the other to a combination of private interests which would be equivalent to a feudal industrialism. The farmers still maintained the individualistic view, though the bill before the Assembly was proof of the trend toward the industrialization of farming.

Mr. Christophers thought that the Conservatives exemplified paternalism fully. They would give back to the worker just enough to keep him alive. Mr. Duggan had spoken of the dole in England. The members of the House of Lords had lived on dole for centuries. The working class had been compelled to accept it by the economic forces following the war. It was yet to be seen whether co-operative marketing would eventuate in a co-operative commonwealth. He would back the bill.

A. G. Andrews (U.F.A.) Sedgewick, told of the struggles of a co-operative creamery in his district since 1924. They had been unable to raise sufficient capital. The Edmonton City Dairy had helped them out. They had doubtless received return for their investment. The principle of this bill was the same. As for the low production in dairying at the present, it was accounted for by the high price of grain and beef.

ALL IN FAVOR OF PRINCIPLE—"BUT ONE"

Summing up the debate, Mr. Reid said that one thing had emerged: all parties were in favor of co-operative marketing.

Mr. McGillivray: "I am neither in favor nor against."

Mr. Reid: There were then fifty-nine members in favor and one who was not. With the fifty-nine it appeared to be a question of degree. The Government believed in common with all progressive Governments that co-operative marketing had passed the experimental stage. It was now accepted as a definite step in the progress of humanity. The Wheat Pool had crystallised co-operative sentiment in the West. Aaron Sapiro, who had been looked upon as an authority by many members, had enunciated as a principle of co-operative marketing that there be no share capital. He had said that there was no necessity for guarantees other than the signatures of the members. Unlimited capital could be obtained. This statement of Mr. Sapiro's had been proven true.

Mr. McGillivray: "Was not Aaron Sapiro against Government backing?"

Mr. Reid: The credit facilities of other countries were available for farmers. It was not so in Canada. He was making no aspersions on the banking institutions of the country. They would probably come to it later. The Pools would have 15 per cent at stake in the enterprise. Believing that co-operation was valuable, he believed that the Government should assist.

Mr. Reid, continuing, said that he had a mental picture of Mr. Duggan, who was at all times logical, appearing before the Cabinet for assistance to a certain industry.

A member: "What industry?"

Mr. Reid: "The straw paper industry."

It had been a policy of past Dominion Governments to assist, for instance, the steel and coke industry. Mr. Duggan had asked for details involved in the provisions of the bill. It would be injudicious to disclose details; since the best results were desired. Talk about putting the credit of the Government behind a group of farmers! What about the Farm Loan Bill of last year, which would this year become operative?

When the question was put, though there was an overwhelming chorus of "Ayes," Mr. McGillivray rose for division; and was supported by a few from the Labor benches who doubtless wished to have his supporters put on record. The chamber was nearly full; two Government members only being absent. Messrs. Prevey and Webster joined with the four Conservatives to oppose a solid alternative of fifty-one.

New School Act Introduced in Assembly by Perren Baker

Lang Moves Amendment in Opposition to Bill—Case for Reorganization Set Forth by Minister

EDMONTON, March 14.—That the new School Act would not give to the Department of Education one vestige of power taken from the elected boards; and that the Minister would have no power under the new act that he did not have under the old one, were statements made to the Assembly on Thursday evening by Hon. Perren Baker, when at the close of the debate on the guaranteed for Co-operative Marketing Associations Bill and a discussion of the relations of the Edmonton and Alberta telephone systems, he rose to move the second reading of his "bill for An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Alberta School Act."

Mr. Baker in a carefully prepared speech explained and amplified the ideas to which he has given utterance on previous public occasions. Though he had said that after waiting all day he would continue as late as Speaker George Johnson would stay in the chair, he relented at eleven o'clock and resumed next day in the afternoon. He was followed in a speech of nearly the allotted length by Hector Lang (Lib.), of Medicine Hat, who moved in amendment seconded by L. A. Giroux:

> **That the bill be not read a second time on account of being unsound in principle, for the following reasons:**
>
> **It provided for a serious and not wholly justifiable interference in the local control and management of rural schools; it substituted for the existing system an undemocratic and highly centralized control over rural schools; it greatly increased school administrative machinery; it violated the principle of Provincial responsibility in educational matters; it caused unfair distribution of financial burdens in rural areas and treated territorial divisions and organizations wholly unsuitable for any other Provincial purpose.**

Mr. Lang was followed by A. A. McGillivray, Conservative leader, who agreed with the amendment and attacked the bill as undemocratic and tending to place "too much power in the hands of the front benchers opposite." The debate was adjourned by Premier Brownlee till Monday afternoon.

BAKER ON WEAKNESSES OF PRESENT SYSTEM

Mr. Baker said that in moving second reading of the bill he desired to call attention sharply to the grave weaknesses of our present system of education and to show that the bill proposed to provide a remedy for those weaknesses. Any system, however, which had not behind it the support and sympathy of the people was of little use. He had confidence that, given a little time, the justice and wisdom of the essential features of the bill would be seen and appreciated. It would re-cast the present school act and make it possible that the wayfaring man might find his way about in it. Rural education was not the only pressing problem in Alberta; but he thought it was perhaps the most pressing.

Our elementary schools in the country were not operating full time. There was no adequate provision for secondary education in the rural areas. The Grade Eight passes of last year were two and one half times the number in 1920. Eleven per cent of the total enrollment of pupils was now in high school. This was a fifty per cent increase since 1920. There was the inequality of distribution of costs. There was the lack of efficiency due to shifting about of teachers. There was the placing of teachers at haphazard. We required supervision for our schools instead of inspection. It was necessary to encourage teachers to continue in the profession that there be greater stability. It should be possible to weed out the unfit.

These weaknesses were not due to the personnel of the trustee boards. They were inherent in the system. He knew that faithful and intelligent service had been rendered by many boards of rural trustees. There was great need, however, for a larger unit of administration. It was not possible, for instance, to have a salary schedule for nearly three thousand schools. These ideas were in accord with the opinions of great educationalists. He quoted some of them. The country system comprising some 500 to 1000 square miles had been found the most efficient in the United States.

The new bill left the old school as the

basic unit of administration, said Mr. Baker. The districts would be grouped into a large district, over which there would be a board of five elected members. These divisions would be again grouped into one large unit having a general Board of twenty members. The bill divided the functions of the entire school system between these elected boards. It was said that the bill was not democratic. In what respect? he asked. Was it contrary to democracy that the people should elect two boards instead of one? The divisional board would engage and pay teachers. The local board would look after all property interests as before. The general board would determine the salary schedule.

COMMON BASIS OF TAXATION SOUND

The Minister declared that the principle of a common basis of taxation was sound and just. Education had become a state responsibility. He saw no reason why one man should be called upon to pay from forty to eighty mills for education when it only cost another seven. In the older days when education was a local responsibility that might have been considered just and right. Not so today.

The cost would not be great, said Mr. Baker. He gave figures to show that seven and a half mills on the dollar on all assessable land would provide for full time operation, adequate supervision and maintenance of the elected boards. There appeared to be some fear that the salary standard would increase. If it did that would be at the discretion of these elected boards which were under the control of the people. The bill did not provide nor had his figures provided for such increase.

FINANCES OF PROPOSED SCHEME

There were 2802 teachers in the rural schools having an average salary of $1,028. Total full time salaries on that basis would amount to the sum of $2,880,456. The expenses for twelve meetings annually of the divisional boards would reach about $50,000. The forty supervisors required would cost about $120,000. The total yearly expenses of the general board be set at $22,350. The superintendents would take the place of the present inspectors and were not therefore an additional charge. The total expense came to $3,072,756. The total assessed value of school districts was $343,000,000. At the seven and a half mill rate this would yield $2,572,500, with grants of $700,000 making a grand total of $3,272,500, leaving a favorable balance of $199,744 which would suffice to cover errors in his estimates. Mr. Baker had reached this point on adjournment at eleven o'clock.

Continuing on Friday afternoon, Mr. Baker briefly summed up the argument of the previous evening. He had then concerned himself with two of the main considerations: principle and cost. He would now address himself to the third: effectiveness. Under the new act there would be no such problem as part time schools. With the appointment of teachers under a larger authority there would be little likelihood of being without teacher at the opening of the term; nor would there be the same possibility of teachers leaving in mid-term. Dismissal of teachers for petty reasons would not be countenanced. Then there was the problem of secondary education. It was universally admitted that under the present system it was not possible to make adequate provision for secondary education in rural areas. The task had been passed on to the villages towns and cities. The wider areas contemplated could co-operate to grapple with this problem.

MUCH FAIRER DISTRIBUTION

There were complaints, said the Minister, that the proposal to exclude the towns and cities from the taxing area was unfair. Land seemed to be the only feasible basis for taxation. The varying mill rate would continue; but under the act a man would pay in proportion to the value of his holdings. Rural areas were afraid of having to pay for the splendid educational facilities of the cities; and in turn the cities were somewhat afraid of rural dominance. If the unit of taxation were made large enough no one person would have too great a burden and none would escape. There was no particular reason why well-to-do farming areas should pay the costs of pioneer sections. The equalization grant would still be in force. The distribution of the burden would be much fairer than at the present.

Continuing, Mr. Baker said that the quality of the teacher was largely the quality of the school. Education was never going to be on a proper basis till we secured more experienced teachers. The schools needed bigger people, more experienced, having a greater knowledge of the world. If there were a salary schedule, the teacher would have a better status in the community. In these days we were coming more and more to look to the schools for moral teaching. It was therefore the more necessary that men and women of high standards be secured. They would be able to reduce the number of misfits. Superintendents would know the teachers. They would feel their responsibility; being part of the divisional mechanism, not sent in from the outside as were the inspectors now. There would not be the same shifting as before.

Concluding Mr. Baker paid tribute to the fairness of the press both in news item and editorial. He also quoted approval from many papers in other parts of Canada. This was not a new scheme. Higher centralization had been instituted in New Zealand and Australia; also in England in 1902 and in Scotland in 1918. He read from a speech by Dr. Wallace of the University of Alberta, which, after analysing the changes in the Scottish system said that the experience of the past ten years had amply justified the change. New England where our system grew up had discarded it long ago. It was recognized throughout Canada and the United States that extreme local control does not give the best results. He quoted approval of the Alberta scheme as outlined in the bill from a number of great educators.

HECTOR LANG THINKS CHANGE TOO DRASTIC

Hector Lang (Lib.) of Medicine Hat, himself a school principal for many years, before moving his amendment analysed the speech of the Minister of Education. He disagreed with Mr. Baker. He thought that the weaknesses of which he complained could be largely remedied by increasing the number of inspectors. The Minister had cut down the number from thirty-eight to twenty-five shortly after assuming office. He himself was not wedded to the single unit system. Perhaps the trustees could be shown that the work could be done better than it is now. On the whole he thought the rural schools efficient. There should be no hurry to make a drastic change.

Under the new system there was a tendency to state control. The people of Canada had always looked upon the school as their own. He thought the board of five directors would be dominated by the superintendent. There was a drift of government towards Edmonton and little evidence of it in remote parts. He was strongly in favor of the county system for other purposes, health, roads, etc., and until this was effected he saw no need of change. The units proposed would be of no value for other purposes. He thought, too, that the cities and towns should be included in the taxing area. There was too great a tendency to separate them at present. He submitted his amendment.

CONGRATULATES BAKER ON COURAGE

A. A. McGillivray expressed general agreement with the amendment. It was of no use, however, because the Government should be prepared to make a test. It should take its political life in its hands when it brought down a measure such as this. He congratulated the Minister on his tardy opening of the question; also on his being the only Minister who had the courage of his convictions to go through with something that was apparently unpopular.

If the Minister believed in state control, why not take in the entire educational system. This was another instance of the gradual arrogation of power on the part of the front benches opposite. He criticised the provisions of the bill. Five men could not live in 150 districts. There would therefore be no local representation in 145 of the 150 districts. There would be no measure of local autonomy on the divisional board which fixed the salaries and paid the teachers. It all made for Departmental domination. He was not in favor of teachers being given unfair wages; neither was he in favor of their being harassed by local trustees. If it were necessary to enlarge the unit, there should be complete local control of both teacher and salary. The one taxing area was also unsound. There were pioneer districts which had made good and were now on sound financial footing. Assistance to new pioneer districts should be out of the public purse.

Premier Brownlee adjourned the debate until Monday afternoon.

Further Lease of Life for Calgary South Western Railway

EDMONTON, March 13.—The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature under the chairmanship of L. Joly (U.F.A.) St. Paul (in the absence of A. G. Andrews) agreed to recommend a further lease of life to the Calgary and South Western Railway.

Mr. McGillivray presented the statutory declaration of P. Burns of Calgary showing that sums aggregating over $650,000 had been spent in developing this railway and the property which it was intended to serve. The line was to be some forty-five miles in length and would open what was veritably a mountain of coal. Mr. Burns did not feel it to be economically sound to develop the

property at the present time. The franchise was not exclusive. Any other company could enter the same territory. The bill was only for an extension of time of two years.

Lorne Proudfoot (U.F.A.) Acadia, drew attention to the fact that the bill was first passed in 1921. Since that time the Legislature had been asked to extend the time in 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927 and now again two years. He moved the following amendment: "Provided, however, that the Company shall give the Province of Alberta a bond of two hundred dollars per mile that the railway will be commenced and completed as stated herein."

W. M. Washburn (U.F.A.) Stoney Plain, thought the principle of continuing charters indefinitely should be discouraged. He had nothing against this particular application, but there were some one hundred railway charters now current in the Province. He cited a case in his own constituency. People entered these districts in expectation of development and suffered hardship for years.

G. H. Webster (Lib.) said that although he was a director of a company which was a rival of that of Mr. Burns, approaching the same mountain of coal from the south side, he was in favor of a renewal of the charter. He reviewed the economic situation of the past few years. This project, he said, was a hobby of Mr. Burns which would result some day in the opening up of a great natural resource.

A. L. Sanders (U.F.A.) Stettler, believed that the bill should be amended to retard development. The coal business was suffering at present from over development. He would hold it back for ten or fifteen years.

Mr. Webster said the coal of this mountain was semi-anthracite and would increase the prestige of Alberta coal when put on the markets of the east.

The amendment was defeated and the bill passed committee as presented.

Duties of Board of Reference Outlined by Judge Taylor

Work Done by Important Board Dealing With Teachers and Trustees Described in Assembly

Appearing before the Committee on Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education, on March 13th, Judge Taylor, chairman of the Board of Reference of the Department of Education, outlined the duties of that board and told of some of their work in the past three years. The powers of the board were quite limited.

In essence they amounted to being able to make recommendations to the Minister in the case of the dismissal of a teacher or of the irregular leaving of a teacher; and to the giving of "a clean bill of health" (a good professional standing) to the teacher. The Board had dealt with eighteen cases. All but two or three of these had been brought by teachers who charged wrongful dismissal.

Most of the troubles were in rural districts, some of them remote from Edmonton. The mail service to these areas was not frequent; and often the thirty days allowed had expired before the board had been able to take action. The board had never recommended the reinstatement of the teacher, because it was useless. Local boards were often dominated by some one trustee, who for some petty reason did not like the teacher. Perhaps his children had been reprimanded. Perhaps he did not like the cut of her hair. Sometimes the teachers were at fault it was true; but the reasons for dismissal were often amazingly trivial. In one case the complaint was that a child had been fifty-four days in school and had not yet learned the alphabet. He understood that the alphabet was not now taught but was picked up in the course of the first few years.

He thought that the contract should stand at least for the whole term if not for the year, except in case of proven inefficiency or moral unsoundness. O. L. McPherson, W. C. Smith, A. L. Giroux, W. M. Washburn, A. Matheson, G. Mihalcheon, S. A. Carson, D. H. Galbraith and C. L. Gibbs took part in the discussion; also J. W. Barnett, secretary of the Teachers' Alliance, who was present.

Says Remedy in New School Act

In the course of the discussion, Judge Taylor said he thought that the new School Act would remedy all the ills from which rural teachers were now suffering. He was in favor of having the election of rural school trustees take place at the same time as the municipal elections to prevent the possibility of a trustee being elected by a few of his friends and neighbors. There had been a case last January where a trustee had got himself elected for the express purpose of dismissing the teacher.

It was suggested by one of the members that sometimes the individual reasons for dismissal were quite petty but there were so many that in the aggregate they constituted sufficient ground. Judge Taylor said that in the eighteen cases only two or three had produced good or valid reason for dismissal. Mr. Mihalcheon said that it was often difficult for trustees to give definite proof that the teacher was not giving satisfaction. The only recourse in such cases appeared to be a reduction of salary, forcing the teacher to leave. Mr. Galbraith agreed with the idea of a yearly contract. In his home school only one teacher had been dismissed in twenty years. Mr Carson would have the contract terminate with thirty days' notice at the end of the term.

Interests of Children First

The necessity of disciplinary measures for teachers not playing the game was mooted by Mr. Galbraith and was endorsed by C. L. Gibbs and by Mr. Barnett. Mr. Gibbs said, "While we desire to protect teachers when they have legitimate complaints, we want to make it quite clear that the interests of the school children of this Province come first; and if teachers are found not be to playing the game they should be checked in some way."

Mr. Gibbs is a teacher at the Edmonton Technical School and an alderman of the city of Edmonton in addition to being a Labor representative for the city in the Legislature. It was at his instance that the committee called Judge Taylor to discuss the functions of the Board of Reference.

No resolution was brought before the committee for decision. —N.F.P.

Highway Needs of Eastern Part of Alberta Presented

Appearing before Premier Brownlee and O. L. McPherson, Minister of Public Works on Friday, March 9th, a delegation of about a dozen people representing the constituencies of Hand Hills, Stettler and Sedgewick, headed by their respective members G. A. Forster, A. L. Sanders and A. G. Andrews, presented the claims of the eastern section of the Province to the building of a north and south highway through the towns of Brooks, Hanna, Castor and Viking, serving the Province from the international boundary to the limit of settlement as the need arose.

Spokesmen for the delegation maintained that such a road would not only serve as a return highway for tourists who would thereby be enabled to obtain a much more comprehensive view of the Province; but that it would be a greatly used and convenient market road cutting across the system of railways running east and west. There were said to be no serious engineering difficulties, the bridges across the Battle, Red Deer and South Saskatchewan Rivers being conveniently located to the proposed route. The heaviest piece of road work on the entire stretch was that at Painter Coulee, north of Castor. Much work had already been done on this.

No definite promise was given to the delegation, but the Premier and Mr. McPherson stated that the entire Province was being kept in mind in the plans for road development. The delegation felt that there was implied assurance that their wishes would be fulfilled as soon as conditions would warrant and the public purse permit such expenditure.

To Inquire Into Feasibility of the Grading of Oils

Standardization of fuel oils and lubricants provided a non-contentious subject in the Legislature on March 14th when W. G. Farquharson (U.F.A.), Ribstone, moved that the Government should conduct an enquiry into the desirability of establishing by law, standards and grades for all fuel oils and lubricating oils used in internal combustion engines; and that the Government report the results of such inquiry to the next session of this Assembly.

Mr. Farquharson said that it was well known that different engines required different grades of gasoline. There were many on the market having many names. The user was quite unable to distinguish between them. He had no way of assuring himself of the quality of the fuel bought. This was even more true of lubricating oils. Some laws had been passed in the United States, but he understood they were inoperative. He thought the larger companies would be willing to conform to any regulations which might be necessary for this protection to the user.

Mr. Farquharson was supported by Nelson S. Smith and F. Ensenauer. Premier Brownlee, while having some reservations as to the possibilities of such an inquiry, said that the Government was willing to conduct it. The motion was passed without dissent. —N.F.P.

Proud Parent—No, I will never recognize an actress as my daughter-in-law.

Lovesick Son—But she isn't an actress; she only thinks she is one.—*Passing Show.*

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